Passage of time, for optimum utilisation of storage space, etc.

(c) No precise time-limit can be stipulated for disposal of the above confiscated goods since such disposal depends upon various factors which include completion of all departmental/court proceedings.

Premature Retirement of Medical Officers in Armed Forces

1480. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of medical officers in the armed forces seeking premature retiremant is on the increase:

(b) if so, the number of medical officers retired during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to find out the reasons for seeking pre-mature retirement by medical officers; and

(d) whether the Government propose to fix a minimum period of ten years compulsory service for the medical officers in the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The number of medical officers who sought and were granted premature retirement during the last three years is as follow:-

Year	*Number of officers who sough premature retirement*	*Number of officers granted premature retirement*
1988	57	44
1989	84	38
1990	72	29

(c) The officers are required to specifically mention the reasons for seeking premature retirement. Reasons generally put forth are supersession or compassionate family circumstances.

(d) No, Sir. Each case is viewed on its merit.

[Translation]

Crisis in Handloom Industry in U.P.

1481. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industry in eastern districts of Varanasi, Mau and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh is facing crisis;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide a solid base to the collapsing handloom industry; and to promote the export of handloom products, particularly Banarasi Sarees; and

(c) the names of the countries to which Banarasi sarees are being exported and the quantum of exports during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government is not aware of any such crisis.

(b) Government is implementing a number of schemes for upliftment of handloom weavers in all the States, including Uttar Pradesh. A scheme to provide margin money to destitute weavers has also been launched during the current year for the benefit of weavers living below poverty line. During the Eight Plan period, greater emphasis will be laid on training, upgradation of skills, modernisation of looms, provision of marketing support etc., to graduate weavers to value added products as also for products suitable for export market.

(c) Silk handloom items valued at Rs. 319.85 crores, Rs. 383.51 crores and Rs. 307.59 crores were exported during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. Productwise data are not maintained. Banarasi sarees are normally exported to the countries like Canada, United Kingdom Mauritius, and Singapore.

[*English*]

Ban on Candidates Contesting from more than one Constituency

1482. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of candidates file their nomination for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections from more than one constituency;

(b) whether this causes great problems to the electoral process; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to restrict candidates to contest elections from one constituency only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Some candidates tend to file their nomination from more then one constituency.

(b) If a person is elected to more than one seat in Lok Sabha of the State Legislative Assembly or both in the Lok Sabha and State Assembly, he has to resign from all but one of the seats. In all these cases a bye-election has to be gone through involving lot of expenditure to the exchequer as well as to the candidates and political parties and also inconvenience to the voters in voting time and again. In case such a contesting candidates dies, the election from all the constituencies from where he is contesting will have to be countermanded.

(c) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which is pending consideration in Rajya Sabha inter-alia seeks to provide that a person shall not be nominated as a candidate for election in more than one constituency of the same class.

Impact of Import Squeeze on Customs duty Collections

1483. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether import squeeze has adversely affected the customs duty collections;

(b) if so, the gap between the budget estimates and actual collection of customs duty during the current year till date; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?